

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 FEA-01 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
DODE-00 ERDA-05 SS-15 SP-02 /099 W
-----004311 122217Z /75

R 121838Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 286
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION NATO
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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJ: CCD: AUGUST 12, 1977 INFORMAL MEETING WITH EXPERTS ON
MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW)

1. SUMMARY: IN FINAL CCD INFORMAL MEETING WITH EXPERTS
ON NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW), HELD AUGUST 12,
BULGARIAN AND MONGOLIAN STATEMENTS SUPPORTED SOVIET
PROPOSAL. PAKISTANI REP OFFERED SOME PERSONAL VIEWS ON
ELEMENTS OF A POSSIBLE MDW AGREEMENT. NETHERLANDS REP GAVE
BRIEF SET OF CONCLUDING REMARKS. SOVIET REP APPRAISED THE OVERALL
SET OF INFORMAL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY

2. BULGARIAN EXPERT (KOLOROV) FOCUSED ON THE DANGERS OF
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RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW), USING AS EXAMPLES ATMOSPHERIC
CONTAMINATION RESULTING FROM NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE 1950'S
AND THE 1957 ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE IODINE AT
WINDSCALE, ENGLAND. RW, HE SAID, WOULD NOT ONLY AFFECT
DIRECT TARGETS, BUT COULD ALSO DAMAGE FUTURE GENERATIONS.
BULGARIAN EXPERT INDICATED SATISFACTION AT THE GENERAL
ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEED FOR AN AGREEMENT ON RW, BUT SAID HE

HOPED THE PROHIBITION OF RW COULD BE PART OF A BAN ON NEW MDW AS A WHOLE.

3. MONGOLIAN REP (BAYART) MADE STATEMENT CONFINED TO REPEATING AND UNDERSCORING THEMES OF SOVIET REMARKS.

4. PAKISTANI REP (SALEEM), STRESSING THAT HE WAS MERELY THINKING ALOUD AND WAS NOT OFFERING EITHER A FORMAL OR INFORMAL PROPOSAL, GAVE THE FOLLOWING APPRAISAL OF MDW DISCUSSIONS: AVAILABLE RESOURCES INCLUDE THE 1948 DEFINITION, THE FAIRLY PRECISE IDEA WE HAVE OF EXISTING MDW AND THEIR EFFECTS, AND THE PRESUMPTION THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AGREES THAT NO NEW MDW SHOULD BE PRODUCED; THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN PREPARING A PRECISE DEFINITION OR LISTING OF NEW MDW; IT IS DIFFICULT TO DEVISE VERIFICATION AND CONTROL TECHNIQUES FOR WEAPONS WHICH HAVE YET TO SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY; THERE ARE DIFFERENT VIEWS AMONG SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF PRODUCING NEW MDW IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IF AN MDW AGREEMENT WERE EVER REACHED, THE PAKISTANI REP STATED, IT COULD MAKE USE OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (A) THE 1948 DEFINITION, PERHAPS EXPANDED; (B) A LIST OF EXISTING MDW WHICH WOULD FALL OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE TREATY'S PROHIBITION; (C) A GENERAL PROHIBITION OF ALL MDW APART FROM EXISTING MDW; (D) AN AGREED BUT NOT EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF MDW WHICH COULD BE DEVELOPED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHICH COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE SUPPLEMENTED AS NECESSARY; (E) A PROVISION LEAVING OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE AGREEMENTS BANNING PARTICULAR NEW MDW.

5. NETHERLANDS ALTERNATE REP (MEERBURG) MADE A FEW CONCLUDING REMARKS. SINCE THE SPRING CCD SESSION, HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN TWO SIGNIFICANT EVENTS: THE UK PROPOSAL FOR A UNGA RESOLUTION WHICH COULD BE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS; THE INTRODUCTION OF A REVISED MDW DRAFT TREATY BY THE SOVIET UNION. THERE SEEMED TO BE A CONSENSUS, NETHERLANDS ALTERNATE REP STATED, ON THE NEED TO HALT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MDW, BUT THE QUESTION IS HOW TO DO THIS. FURTHER, THE NETHERLANDS REP STATED, THERE SEEMED TO BE A CONSENSUS ON THE USEFULNESS OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS ADDRESSING PARTICULAR WEAPONS; THE MATTER ON WHICH THERE REMAIN DIFFERENCES IS WHETHER AN OVERALL AGREEMENT WOULD BE USEFUL. IT WAS CLEAR, THOUGH, THAT DIFFERENT TYPES OF WEAPONS REQUIRE DIFFERENT VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS, AND IN THIS CONNECTION NETHERLANDS REP QUOTED STATEMENT MADE BY SOVIET REP (ISSRAELYAN) DURING JUNE 1977 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL TREATY.

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6. USSR REP (LIKHATCHEV), SUMMING UP SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS ON THE SUBJECT OF NEW MDW, SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAD ON THE WHOLE BEEN USEFUL. SOVIET REP NOTED AN INCREASED DEGREE OF DESIRE EXPRESSED TO PREVENT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MDW, SAYING THAT THE DIFFERENCES RELATE EXCLUSIVELY TO HOW TO ACHIEVE THIS. IF THIS IS TRULY THE CASE, SOVIET REP SAID, THE PROBLEM CAN AND MUST BE SOLVED. IN GENERAL, SOVIET REP REMARKED, THE QUESTION IS NOT HOW GREAT THE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES ARE, BUT WHETHER THE POLITICAL WILL EXISTS TO SOLVE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM.

7. SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN EXPERTS, SOVIET REP STATED, HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF NEW MDW BASED ON THE EXISTING STATUS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE DISCUSSIONS,
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HE SAID, WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE PRODUCTIVE IF THIS METHOD HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY OTHERS, ESPECIALLY BY THE EXPERTS OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAD TRIED TO CAST DOUBT ON THE NEED FOR AN OVERALL BAN ON NEW MDW. UNFORTUNATELY, SOVIET REP SAID, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STATEMENTS OF SOME EXPERTS HAD MET WITH OFF-HAND REJECTIONS AND BALD ASSERTIONS FROM OTHERS.

8. SOVIET REP SAID THAT SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN MANY DEVELOPMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1948, THE 1948 DEFINITION NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS NEW DEVELOPMENTS. THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD) CONVENTION, THE SOVIET REP SAID, ALSO RELATED TO A TYPE OF WARFARE NOT EXISTING WHEN IT WAS CONCLUDED, PERTAINING TO TECHNIQUES WHICH ARE NOT ALWAYS CLEARLY VISUALIZABLE. THUS, SOVIET REP STATED, THE FACT THAT WEAPONS DO NOT ACTUALLY EXIST IS NOT NECESSARILY AN OBSTACLE TO REACHING AN AGREEMENT BANNING THEM.

9. SOVIET REP NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT SEVERAL REPS AND EXPERTS HAD DECLARED THE NEW SOVIET DRAFT MDW TREATY WOULD REQUIRE SERIOUS STUDY, AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL THUS COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE SOVIET DRAFT CAN SERVE AS A BASIS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF BANNING NEW MDW. VANDEN HEUVEL

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